

where he would serve for nearly 11 years.

Shawn Somits' life ended suddenly and tragically on April 2, 2015, following a long battle with post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, suffered as a result from his combat service. He is survived by his wife, Daisy, and their two children, Faith and Wesley.

Today I express my condolences to the family of Shawn Somits and honor Shawn's service to his country both as a combat veteran and a Federal law enforcement officer. Tragic losses such as this provide us a chance to reflect on the sacrifices dedicated public servants like Shawn make in order to keep us all safe from harm. Shawn Somits was a dedicated soldier, officer, husband, and father. His loss leaves a deep void in the lives of those who knew and loved Shawn.

MONROE COUNTY, OHIO BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Monroe County, OH, as it celebrates its bicentennial anniversary. On January 29, 1813, an act to form the County of Monroe made up of parts of Belmont, Washington, and Guernsey Counties was passed by the Ohio Legislature.

Although Monroe County had already been established, it did not function as a county until it was officially organized in 1815. On February 3, 1815, an act was passed by the Ohio Legislature to attach another part of Washington County to Monroe County and to organize Monroe into a separate county. The act went into effect on March 1, 1815, which was when Monroe began to formally function as a county. Residents named the county in honor of James Monroe, who at the time was U.S. Secretary of State and eventually became the fourth President of the United States. However, the official bicentennial celebration begins this month since the first Monroe County officials were elected in April of 1815.

I congratulate the citizens of Monroe County and all who are involved in planning the yearlong celebration, which will feature a variety of events recognizing 200 years of history and heritage throughout Monroe County.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SAFETY WEEK

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the construction industry plays a major role in promoting economic growth, employing workers across a variety of trades, and literally building communities. It is a noble profession, yet today it remains one of the most dangerous occupations. Building codes and workplace safety regulations have made great strides but there is more to be done. We all share a responsibility to ensure that men and women who

offer their most valuable asset—their labor—not only earn fair wages but also work in safe environments so they can safely return home after every shift.

I am proud that in my hometown of Portland, OR, various public, private and nonprofit stakeholders have formed the SafeBuild Alliance to promote and share best practices for worksite safety. This collaboration is so important because we know that with proper planning, communication and controls, reducing workplace injuries and fatalities is not only possible, it is already happening.

The SafeBuild Alliance is leading the way with its Zero Incidents Through Collaboration initiative, which facilitates safe performance by promoting the sharing of best practices among industry professionals. From general contractors to property owners, public and private entities, architects and engineers, to building and construction trade associations, industry vendors and insurers—everyone has a role in promoting safe worksites.

It is my great privilege to recognize the Safebuild Alliance for their work and advocacy for safe workplaces on behalf of all our workers engaged in the construction industry. Safety must be priority No. 1, every job, every day. And to further heighten awareness, I am pleased to offer my support in the official observance of May 3 to 9, 2015 as Construction Industry Safety Week.●

REMEMBERING DICK GINSBURG

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to honor an icon in Oregon's legal community and a long-time friend who passed away on March 1. Dick Ginsburg was a long-time resident of the small Washington County community of Cornelius, and a founding member of the Oregon chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, AILA. Dick was one of those rare human beings who brought both reason and compassion to every issue on which he worked. And I know everyone who met Dick will always remember his engaging smile, his joyful enthusiasm and that infectious laughter—regardless of the issue.

Dick often referred to the lifelong impact he felt from his experience in the Peace Corps in Paraguay, surely much of it attributable to his loving wife of 40 years who he met there, Rosalia. Along with their wonderful children, Brian and Laura, the Ginsburg family was always exceptionally generous and created an extended family, not only in Oregon, but everywhere he went.

As a friend during my early days at Legal Aid, Dick showed himself to be a thoughtful, compassionate, and dedicated lawyer. He understood the intricacies of immigration law and devoted his life to making it work with equal justice for businesses and people alike.

While Dick will be remembered by all whose lives he touched, I will espe-

cially remember my friend as a mentor, a guiding force, and one of those people who made the world a better place just for being here.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1124. An original bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1105. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1106. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Early College Federal Pell Grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1107. A bill to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include court security officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1109. A bill to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1110. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the

role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1111. A bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1112. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1113. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to remand certain civil actions transferred by the judicial panel on multidistrict litigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1114. A bill to enhance rail safety and provide for the safe transport of hazardous materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1115. A bill to close out expired, empty grant accounts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1116. A bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. LEE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1117. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to remove senior executives of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct to include removal of certain other employees of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REED) (by request):

S. 1118. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. GRAMHAM, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1119. A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1120. A bill to make aliens associated with a criminal gang inadmissible, deportable, and ineligible for various forms of relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1121. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1122. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education, and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1123. A bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1124. An original bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1125. A bill to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission regulating broadband Internet access; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 152. A resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 153. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Japan relationship to safeguarding global security, prosperity, and human rights; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 139, a bill to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 171, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve 529 plans.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to improve the provisions relating to the privacy of electronic communications.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.